



1350 Norris Road  
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

Via Email Only: [66620-11100603@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:66620-11100603@requests.muckrock.com)

January 22, 2019

Aaron Swartz  
Day Police Surveillance Project  
MuckRock.com

Re: California Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Swartz:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office ("KCSO") is in receipt of your emailed request, under the California Public Records Act, for records related to **FLIR Thermal Cameras**, as follows:

Request: Number, if any, of Thermal Cameras (FLIR) owned by this department or agency. Please specify if the equipment is hand-held, pole-mounted or in used in conjunction with aircraft.

Response: The Sheriff's Office has two aircraft mounted FLIR model Ultra 8500XR-TLP units.

Request: Number, if any, of Thermal Cameras (FLIR) available for use by this department or agency via collaborative agreements that were utilized within the period encompassing this request. Please provide the name of the department or agency that made FLIR devices available to this department or agency for use.

Response: The Kern County Sheriff's office has no records responsive to this request.

Request: Any documents or correspondence during the period encompassing this request regarding possible or planned acquisition of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS.

Response: KCSO staff would have to conduct an extensive search of multiple records, primarily email records, that is not likely to produce any disclosable records or at a minimum only very few.

Due to limited staffing and the number of the individual records, for the County to perform this exercise would place on undue burden on the County's resources that is not required by the CPRA. "Under applicable California law, even a focused, specific request, when it would require an agency to search volumes of documents or to produce a large volume of material may be objectional as "unduly burdensome." (*California First Amendment Coalition v. Superior Court* (1998) 67 Cal.App.4th 159, 166; citing *American Civil Liberties Union Foundation v. Deukmejian* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 440.)

Therefore, we are denying this portion of your request pursuant to Government Code § 6254(k) and 6255.

However, we are providing you copies of the requisition documents for the FLIR devices.

Request: Any existing or proposed usage policies regarding the use of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS including protocols, training documents, data storage procedures and prohibited activities.

Response: A copy of the Kern County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit Operations Manual is attached.

Request: Any current or past litigation involving or referencing this department or agency involving the use of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS.

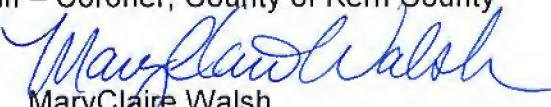
Response: The Kern County Sheriff's office has no records pertaining to this request. Furthermore, such items if in existence, would be exempt from disclosure under California Government Code § 6254(b).

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 661-391-7518 or email: [walshm@kernsheriff.org](mailto:walshm@kernsheriff.org)

Sincerely,

**DONNY YOUNGBLOOD,**  
Sheriff – Coroner, County of Kern County

By:

  
MaryClaire Walsh  
Civil Litigation Coordinator

MCW